

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) said to be anticipated by U.S. patent 6,723,824 (the '824 patent).

The '824 patent is based on a PCT application filed May 25, 2000. The applicable section 102(e) makes the '824 unavailable as a 102(e) reference against the present application that claims November 3, 1999 the date of the German priority document 19952851.9.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Believing the above represent a complete response to the Office Action and that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants request the earliest issuance of an indication to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Aron Preis
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 29,426

Bayer MaterialScience LLP
100 Bayer Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741
PHONE: (412) 777-3814
FACSIMILE PHONE NUMBER:
412-777-3902
s:/bsh/ap1013